In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph spanning pages 19 and 20 with the following:

Preferably, the Vickers hardness of the polyester film measured at a depth of 0.2 μm with a thin-film hardness tester is in the range of 100 to 500 MPa, more preferably 100 to 450 MPa. The ~~Mohs~~Vickers hardness is measured with a diamond pyramid intender having an angle of 80° between opposite faces. Thus, the hardness in a minute area of the film surface can be known. By selecting the composition of the polyester constituting the polyester film serving as the substrate of a gas barrier film according to the foregoing description and setting the Vickers hardness to be 500 MPa or less, undulation or projections observed in a small area at the surface of the substrate are reduced due to heat treatment after biaxial orientation and thermal history in vapor deposition. Consequently, defects in the deposited layer are prevented to increase the adhesion between the substrate and the deposited layer, and thus the gas barrier properties are advantageously increased. In general, it is difficult to set at 100 MPa or less the ~~Mohs~~Vickers hardness of a polyester film comprising polyester having such a specific composition as the substrate of the gas barrier film of the present invention has. In order to reduce the Vickers hardness, the component ratio in the polyester film of polyester B mainly composed of a repeating unit comprising butylene terephthalate may be increased; the plane orientation coefficient of the polyester film may be reduced by increasing drawing temperature or reducing draw ratio; or heat treatment temperature after drawing may be lowered to reduce the crystallinity of the polyester film. Any of the methods is liable to reduce the plane orientation coefficient and the lengthwise elastic modulus of the polyester film. A low lengthwise elastic modulus easily causes defects in the deposited layer or other problems. It is necessary to appropriately select material composition and conditions of film formation so as to set the ~~Mohs~~Vickers hardness, the lengthwise elastic modulus, and the plane orientation coefficient of the film in the preferred ranges.

On page 23, please replace the first full paragraph with the following:

The film is further heat-treated after biaxial orientation. This heat treatment is performed in an oven at a temperature in the range of 140 to 230°C for 1 to 30 seconds while the film is in constant length or shrunk ~~to a predetermined length or~~ gradually. In order to set the elastic modulus, the plane orientation coefficient, and Vickers hardness in the preferred ranges, it is necessary to appropriately select the polyester composition, the preheating temperature, drawing temperature, draw ratio, and relaxation ratio in the longitudinal and width directions, and the temperature of heat treatment after drawing.

On page 29, please replace the second full paragraph with the following:

Tear propagation resistance was measured with a light-load tear tester produced by Toyo Seiki Seisaku-sho in accordance with ASTM-D-1922. A sample having dimensions of ~~51~~64 by 54 mm was provided with a ~~1R3~~13 mm pre-cut slit in the longitudinal direction. The rest of the length, that is 51 mm, was torn, and the indication at this point was read.